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REVIEWS OF RECENT LITERATURE.

ANTHROPOLOGY.

Anthropological Notes.—The rate of erosion of the gorge of Niagara has been variously estimated, and the length of time that has elapsed since the river began its cutting has been shortened or lengthened to correspond. Owing to the problems connected with the relations of early man in America to the glacial epoch, the discussion of the value of Niagara as a chronometer, in No. 4, Vol. XXXI, of the *Bulletin of the American Geographical Society*, will be of interest to anthropologists. Professor Tarr summarizes the results of the many investigations in the following words: "Gilbert says that the problem of the age of Niagara cannot 'be solved by a few figures on a slate, nor yet by the writing of many essays.' To this every one who has given attention to the problem must assent. The longer the study, the more complex the problem appears, and we are bound to conclude that Niagara is not a good chronometer. Until more evidence has been obtained concerning the length of the overflow at Nipissing Pass, which some believe to have been long, others short, we are bound to remain in doubt whether the age is from 5000 to 10,000 years or from 30,000 to 50,000 years."

In the *American Anthropologist* for October, 1899, appears a second paper by Mr. W. H. Holmes upon "Preliminary Revision of the Evidence relating to Auriferous Gravel Man in California." Mr. Holmes devotes his attention chiefly to the Calaveras skull, the most important of the human remains reported from the auriferous gravels. He regards this supposed Tertiary relic as quite modern, probably the skull of a Digger Indian. Notwithstanding his masterly summing up of the evidence for the negative, the case cannot be considered closed until the facts presented by Becker, Wright, and King have been explained. Mr. Holmes is unjust in his intimation that the possessors of the skull have been neglectful of their obligation in not taking further steps to prove its authenticity during the thirty-three years that it has been in Cambridge. Professor Whitney adequately described the skull in his volume on *The Auriferous Gravels of the Sierra Nevada of California*. It was always accessible to any one

wishing to examine it. Further evidence was obtainable only in the locality whence it came. No opportunity to seek such evidence has yet occurred during the short period in which the skull has been in the possession of the Peabody Museum.

The sixth summer meeting of "The American Association to Promote the Teaching of Speech to the Deaf" was held at the Clarke School for the Deaf, Northampton, Mass., in June, 1899. In his presidential address Dr. Alexander Graham Bell reviewed the history of the association from the time of its foundation in 1890. A condensed account was also given of the present condition of instruction in speech-teaching in the United States. Only a few years ago silent methods of instruction of deaf-mutes were everywhere in vogue; now speech is used as a means of instruction with the majority of such pupils (53.1 per cent), and the total number taught speech and speech-reading amounts to 6460, or 61.4 per cent of the whole. There is a steady increase in the percentage of speech-teaching, and Dr. Bell believes that the time is not far distant when speech will be taught to every deaf child in America. In a reprint from *The Association Review*, Dr. Bell adds a number of tables of statistics compiled from the *American Annals of the Deaf*. These show the number of schools, pupils, teachers, and give lists of the schools, with their location, official names, directors, etc.

F. R.

GENERAL BIOLOGY.

A Study of Heredity among the Deaf.¹—We are indebted to Professor Edward Allen Fay for an important contribution to the data of heredity. The collection of the large mass of material and publication of the extensive tables were made possible by a liberal use of the funds of the Volta Bureau, an institution endowed by Dr. Alexander Graham Bell "for the increase and diffusion of knowledge relating to the deaf."

The inquiry was begun in 1889. Circulars containing questions to be answered were distributed widely among heads of schools for the deaf, the deaf themselves, and their relatives and friends. Facts were gathered also from journals for the deaf, school reports, and

¹ Fay, E. A. *Marriages of the Deaf in America*. Washington, The Volta Bureau, 1898 (1899). vii, 527 pp., 8vo.